

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND
BALTIMORE DIVISION**

JASON ALFORD *et al.*,

Plaintiffs,

v.

THE NFL PLAYER DISABILITY &
SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN *et al.*,

Defendants.

Case No. 1:23-cv-00358-JRR

**DEFENDANTS' JOINT MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT OF
PLAINTIFF JAMIZE OLAWALE'S CLAIMS**

Defendants the NFL Player Disability & Survivor Benefit Plan, the NFL Player Disability & Neurocognitive Benefit Plan, the Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle NFL Player Retirement Plan, the Disability Board of the NFL Player Disability & Neurocognitive Benefit Plan hereby move for summary judgment of Plaintiff Jamize Olawale's claims in the Amended Complaint, ECF No. 56. For the reasons more fully explained in the accompanying Memorandum in Support of Defendants' Joint Motion for Summary Judgment of Plaintiff Jamize Olawale's Claims, the Court should grant summary judgment for Defendants on Counts I, II, III, and V as to Mr. Olawale.¹

Summary judgment is warranted for Defendants here because: (i) the undisputed facts show that Mr. Olawale was not entitled to benefits under the terms of the Plan and the Board did not abuse its discretion in denying Mr. Olawale's claim because its decision was based on substantial evidence; (ii) the decision letters Mr. Olawale received provided the required information and complied with the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security

¹ The Court has already dismissed Count IV in its entirety. ECF No. 78 at 47.

Act; (iii) expert analysis of physician assignments and compensation disproves Plaintiffs' theory that Neutral Physicians with more frequent examination assignments are associated with higher rates of application or appeal denials; and (iv) Mr. Olawale's fiduciary breach allegations are derivative of the same alleged failures underlying Counts I, II, and III, and the kinds of errors Mr. Olawale alleges do not come close to the standard to demonstrate a fiduciary breach.

Date: November 18, 2024

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Gregory F. Jacob

Gregory F. Jacob (D. Md. Bar No. 06769)
Meredith N. Garagiola (*pro hac vice*)
O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP
1625 Eye Street, N.W., 10th Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 383-5300
Facsimile: (202) 383-5414
Email: gjacob@omm.com
Email: mgaragiola@omm.com

Elizabeth L. McKeen (*pro hac vice*)
O'MELVENY & MYERS LLP
610 Newport Center Drive, 17th Floor
Newport Beach, CA 92660
Telephone: (949) 823-6900
Facsimile: (949) 823-6994
Email: emckeen@omm.com

*Attorneys for Defendants The NFL Player
Disability & Survivor Benefit Plan, The NFL
Player Disability & Neurocognitive Benefit
Plan, The Bert Bell/Pete Rozelle NFL Player
Retirement Plan, and The Disability Board of
the NFL Player Disability & Neurocognitive
Benefit Plan*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Gregory F. Jacob, hereby certify that on November 18, 2024, I caused a copy of the foregoing document to be served upon all counsel of record via the CM/ECF system for the United States District Court for the District of Maryland.

/s/ Gregory F. Jacob
Gregory F. Jacob